

TONTO National Forest



Recreation
Opportunity
Guide

www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto



RIVER BOATING

LOWER SALT RIVER

RANGER DISTRICT

Mesa Ranger Station
5140 E. Ingram Street
Mesa, AZ 85205
Phone (480) 610-3300 Fax (480) 610-3346

RELATED OPPORTUNITIES

Fishing, water activities, camping (in winter months), tubing and wildlife observation

ELEVATIONS

1400 feet at Saguaro Lake Resort to 1310 feet at Granite Reef

NEAREST COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Salt River Tubing: Tube rental, snacks and shuttle services

Saguaro Lake Ranch Resort: Lodging, food, stable, tube rental and rafting trips

Saguaro Lake Marina: Full-service marina, fishing supplies, ice, water, restaurant and phone

Mesa: All services

RELATED INFORMATION

•For river-level information below Stewart Mtn. Dam, contact Salt River Project's recorded message (602) 236-5929 or www.srpnet.com

ATTRACTIONS

- This meandering stretch of the Salt River snakes its way among Saguaro cacti and other desert and riparian vegetation.
- Sections of the river flow at the foot of tall bluffs.
- The entire Lower Salt River is great for bird watching.

RIVER-ACCESS POINTS (RAP)

LOCATIONS

From Mesa, travel east for 7 miles on Superstition Freeway (US 60) to Power Road/Bush Hwy/Forest Road (FR) 204 and turn north. The following recreation sites are accessible from the Bush Hwy:

Granite Reef RAP: Follow Bush Highway for 7 miles to the site. This is the first site next to the river coming from the west on Bush Highway; it is the last point to leave the river if you are coming down the river.

Facilities: Picnic tables/grills

Tubers' Landing RAP (bus stop #6): Follow Bush Highway for 7.2 miles to this RAP (a short distance beyond the Granite Reef RAP).
Facilities: None

Phon D Sutton RAP (bus stop #5): Follow Bush Highway for 9 miles to Forest Road (FR) 169, turn north (left). Follow FR 169 one mile to the site.
Facilities: Picnic tables/grills

Coon Bluff RAP: Follow Bush Highway for 10 miles. Turn north (left) on Forest Road (FR) 204E and follow it for a mile to the site.
Facilities: Picnic tables/grills

Goldfield RAP (bus stop #4): Follow Bush Highway for 11 miles to Forest Road (FR) 204A and turn left. Follow FR 204A for one mile to the site.
Facilities: Toilets

Foxtail RAP: Follow Bush Highway for 12 miles to the RAP.
Facilities: None

Blue Point RAP (bus stop #2): Follow Bush Highway for 13 miles to the site.
Facilities: Picnic tables and toilets

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Water Users RAP (bus stop #1): Follow Bush Highway for 15 miles to the site.
Facilities: Toilets

Saguaro Lake Ranch RAP: Follow Bush Highway for 15.5 miles to the resort.

CONSIDERATIONS

- The summer months bring thousands of “tubers.” We recommend boating this portion of the Salt River during the week and in the **early** hours when it is not busy.
- This river is good for rafts and canoes. **Do not use rowboats.**
- No motorized boats of any type are allowed.
- The stretch between Saguaro Lake Resort and the Blue Point area is not for novices.
- The Lower Salt River is “shut off” (usually by the end of September) during the winter months but is one of the few flowing desert rivers in the summer.
- NO drinking water** is available at any of the RAPs.
- Glass containers are prohibited in the lower Salt River area.
- Styrofoam coolers are easily broken on the river and become trash. Please use some other type of cooler.
- Caution: Fallen trees and other materials in the river can trap swimmers and floaters-- **BEWARE** (especially Bulldog Rapids).
- Please use trash receptacles.
- Please use restrooms provided at sites.
- Pets must be on a leash.
- To avoid injury, wear shoes when wading in the river.
- CAUTION:** Alcohol, sun and water are a deadly combination